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PTO/SB/21 (09-04) Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE er the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. **Application Number** 10/075,153 Filing Date 02/14/2002 **TRANSMITTAL** First Named Inventor Joseph C. Mase **FORM** Art Unit 2876 **Examiner Name** Kumiko C. Koyama (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) Attorney Docket Number SMFLM-5712 (2360-0027) Total Number of Pages in This Submission **ENCLOSURES** (Check all that apply)

| Fee Transmittal Form | | | Drawing(s) | | After Allowance Communication to TC |
|--|--|---------|--|----------|--|
| Fee | Fee Attached | | Licensing-related Papers | | Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences |
| Amendment/Reply | | | Petition | | Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) |
| After | Final | | Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application | | Proprietary Information |
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| Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | | - P | er Enclosures: TO/SB/08A Form ited Reference and English A eturn Postcard | bstract | · |
| | SIGNATU | JRE (| OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY | , OR A | SENT |
| Firm Name | Firm Name Cook, Alex, McFarron, Manzo, Cummings & Mehler, Ltd. | | | | |
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| Signature Starten b. William | | | | | |
| Printed name | Stephen B. Heller | | | | |
| Date | 11/02/05 | | | Reg. No. | 30,181 |
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Date 11/02/05

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, Applicants hereby call the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application. It is respectfully requested that the cited information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the reference be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

The foreign patent cited in this Information Disclosure Statement is the Chinese counterpart application of U.S. Patent No. 6,520,412, which was cited in Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement dated October 27, 2005. The Chinese patent was brought to the Applicants' attention in a communication from the Chinese Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Accordingly, a copy of the foreign patent is enclosed, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.98(2)(i) and (2)(ii) as well as a copy of its English Abstract, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.98(3)(ii).

No inference should be drawn that any apparatus or method disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. Also, the citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of the documents herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the documents are necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicants also respectfully reserve the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure

of the documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the present patent application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the mailing of a first office action and after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114. As the cited information is or was mentioned in a communication from the Chinese Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e) (1), it is hereby stated: each item of information contained in the information statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. Consequently, as provided in 37 C.F.R. § 197(b)(4), a fee under § 1.17(p) is <u>not</u> required for the filing of this information However, if it is determined that an additional disclosure. fee is required, then authorization is hereby granted to charge Deposit Account 50-1039 any additional fee required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 2, 2005

By:

Stephen B. Heller, Esq.
Registration No. 30,181
Cook, Alex, McFarron, Manzo,
Cummings & Mehler, Ltd.
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| U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Examiner | Cite No. ¹ Document Number Number-Kind Code ^{2 (if known)} | Document Number | Publication Date | Name of Patentee or | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where | | |
| Initials* | | MM-DD-YYYY | Applicant of Cited Document | Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
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| Examiner Cite | | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | | |
| | 1 | Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | Nippon Electric Co. | Of Relevant Figures Appear | | |
| | 2 | English Abstract for CN1279441 | | | | | |
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